

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 19290 310616Z
ACTION OES-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5671
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DEPARTMENT PASS USGS AND BUREAU OF MINES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, TH
SUBJ: STUDY TOUR BY MINERALS DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

1. FOUR OFFICIALS OF DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES (DMR),
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, HAVE REQUESTED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN
SCHEDULING VISITS TO U.S. MINES AND PRODUCTION FACILITIES AS
PART OF ROUND-THE-WORLD STUDY PROJECT. OBJECT OF STUDY IS TO PRE-
PARE OFFICIALS TO EVALUATE (1) RESULTS OF ROCK SALT-SODA ASH
STUDY BEING CONDUCTED BY ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, AND (2) POSSI-
BILITIES FOR POTASH PRODUCTION IN THAILAND.

2. MEMBERS OF GROUP, ALL OF WHOM SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY ANEA
HAVE ADVANCED DEGREES IN GEOLOGY OR MINING ENGINEERING, WILL
INCLUDE: PRACHAUP PHAWANDON, DIRECTOR, MINING TECHNOLOGY DIVISION,
DMR; TAWAT JAPAKASETR, GEOLOGIST; ANANT SUWANAPOL, MINING
ENGINEER; SOMBAT PANICHEWA, ENGINEER.

3. GROUP WILL DEPART BANGKOK SEPT. 15 AND ARRIVE IN LOS ANGELES
SEPT. 18 FROM TOKYO, WHERE THEY WILL VISIT ASAHI SODA ASH PLANTS
AND POTASH MARKETING OFFICES. THEY HOPE TO VISIT U.S. INSTALLA-
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 19290 310616Z

TIONS SEPT. 19-23 AND TO ARRIVE IN SASKATOON, CANADA, SEPT. 24
OR 25 TO VISIT POTASH PLANTS THERE. SUBSEQUENTLY THEY WILL VISIT
POTASH MINES AND PLANTS IN FRANCE AND KENYA.

4. IN U.S., GROUP WOULD LIKE TO VISIT: (1) ROOM AND PILLAR SALT
MINE AT SEARLES LAKE, CAL., SEPT. 19; (2) KERR-MCGEE TRONA
MINES AND PLANT AT SEARLES LAKE SEPT. 20; (3) PHOSPHATE MINE AND

PLANT RECOMMENDED BY USGS AND/OR USDOC IN FLORIDA SEPT. 21; (4)
TRONA MINES AND PRODUCTION PLANTS RECOMMENDED BY USGS AND/OR
USDOC IN GREEN RIVER BASIN, WYOMING SEPT. 22-23. ALTHOUGH VISI-
TORS WILL PAY OWN EXPENSES, THEY WOULD APPRECIATE HOTEL AND AIR-
LINE TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS, AND RESERVATIONS IF POSSIBLE, FOR
FOREGOING ITINERARY. ALSO, FLORIDA AND WYOMING VISITS COULD BE
REVERSED IF THAT WOULD PERMIT MORE TIME FOR PLANT AND MINE VISITS.
ALSO, TIME PERMITTING, GROUP WOULD LIKE TO VISIT URANIUM MINE.

5. EMBOFFS HAVE GOOD AND CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS WITH THESE AND
OTHER DMR OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN ARRANGING
VISITS BY EMBOFFS TO THAI MINING AREAS. SIMILAR ASSISTANCE OF
THESE OFFICIALS WILL BE APPRECIATED.
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